



Sustainability Fellowship
**Resilient Montana: Depolarizing the Climate Change
Conversation and Providing Support for Agricultural
Adaptation in the West– Bozeman, MT**

Montana is a headwaters state - a place that much of the country relies on to feed their rivers. Montana is also one of 14 states considered at extreme or high risk of losing its water sustainability. These water impacts bring significant challenges to Montana's struggling agricultural industry and forests, with conflict born of severe drought, extreme weather events and environmental health.

Resilient Montana is a "Collective Impact" effort involving multiple organizations all dedicated to creating relationships and resources for climate adaptation and resilience around Water, Forestry and Agriculture. One Montana is the organization managing this effort, in partnership with the Montana State University Extension Service, the Montana Climate Office, the Montana Institute on Ecosystems, and the Union of Concerned Scientists. Additional advisory partners include the Montana Conservation Districts, the Farmers Union and the Watershed Coordinating Council.

UNHSI Fellows have supported the development of this effort over the past three years, and in 2016 we will continue building on past work. Tasks will include the following:\

- Translate technical resources to easy-to-use documents for inclusion in the database that is part of the Resilient Montana online portal.
- Work with the Montana Extension service to develop/catalogue on-the-ground success stories of adaptation practices on farms and ranches. This will likely involve conducting interviews/site visits. These stories will also be added to the online portal.
- Assist the Montana Extension service in creating climate science professional development and education materials for their county agents; assist with development of stakeholder community surveys for climate science needs.
- Possibly help to organize, and be responsible for the logistics, of one or more workshops involving key constituents of Resilient Montana.

This Fellowship offers an opportunity to refine your communication skills while working with very diverse partners and stakeholders: from rural and agricultural community members to climate scientists to government bureaucrats. The developed skill will focus a great deal on how these interest groups can communicate with one another in the area of climate change as it relates to adaptation and resiliency. It also offers the chance to work on a program that has the strong potential to be a national model.

Location: Bozeman, MT

Time commitment: 40 hours per week, June 6-August 19, 2016

Compensation: \$6000 stipend

Desired Qualifications:

- Enrollment in an undergraduate or graduate degree program: journalism, film, communications would be ideal. Or sustainability, agriculture or environmental science, but with a very strong experiential background in communications.
- Solid computer literacy
- Interviewing skills preferred
- The ability to summarize research papers in layman's language
- Ability to think creatively, work independently, be organized and self-motivated

UNHSI Sustainability program eligibility:

Graduate students, exceptional undergraduate students, and recent graduates are eligible. We will encourage, but not require, an academic sponsor or reference for each fellow, and where possible we will ask that course credits are awarded.

Supervision, Training, Mentoring and Evaluation

This fellow will receive day-to-day supervision from Zach Brown of One Montana, input and mentoring from representatives of the various Resilient Montana partner organizations, and professional development offerings from UNHSI.

Fellows will be expected to participate in three MANDATORY events:

- A three-day, two-night orientation in Durham, NH, June 1-3rd. Lodging and food are provided; Fellows are responsible for any associated travel costs.
- Midterm project presentations to UNHSI staff, faculty and relevant project partners (can be done remotely).
- A summative evaluation and feedback session at the end of their placement.

Apply by February 23rd at <https://www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows>